under the Licensing Policy for setting up of Industries. Government policies are being constantly reviewed and fine tuned to promote where possible industrial activity and employment generation in industrially backward regions.

Change in notiflcation for sugar import

2318. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are favouring any changes in the notification governing import and export under the Advance Licensing Scheme for raw sugar import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also urged the sugar industry to strive for higher productivity at lower cost, achieve vertical growth by diversification and to give the best price to farmers; and

(d) if so, the response so far received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued Public Notice No. 34 dated 17.8.2007 extending the validity of export obligation period for the Advance Licence issued for dury free import of raw sugar. The said Public Notice can be accessed from DGFT *website: http://dgft.nic.in*.

(c) and (d) The Central Government advises the sugar industry from time to time at different fora to strive for excellence through modernization and technological upgradation to achieve higher productivity at lower cost as well as value addition to by-products by producing ethanol and cogeneration of power etc., and avail loans at the concessional rate of interest from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for the purpose.* The sugar factories have been approaching the Central Government for sanction of SDF loans regularly. Besides, the Government also encourages cane development to improve the quality and timely availability of sugarcane, the basic raw material for the sugar industry, by way of advancing concessional loans from the SDF to the sugai" factories, who, in turn, advance the same to their farmers. Further, the Government also provides grant from the SDF for research beneficial to sugar industry to research institutions so as to facilitate qualitative improvement in technology and solutions to problems faced by sugarcane farmers.

Decline in export growth

2319. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export growth is declining during the last two years and there is alarming situation for export growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the reasons behind this situation and how much of impact have occurred over the current dollar rate against rupee in the market;